

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism and, more importantly, the obvious diminishing of equal unfettered access for opposing viewpoints - caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is OBLIGATED BY LAW to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, and with corporate interests in mind, it's more important that we see real people from as many sides of an issue as is reasonable, and that the information they present is verifiable (or at the very least, presented in obvious terms as OPINION) and understandable to the public being served.

This is America, where ALL viewpoints ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION to be welcome and Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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